

REMARKS

Entry of this amendment and reconsideration of the present application, as amended, are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-6, 8-18, 21, 22, 27-30, 51, 54-66 and new claims 89-113 are pending in this application. Claims 7, 31, 35-50, 52, 53, 67, 68 and 71-88 are cancelled. Claims 19, 20, 23-26, 32-34, 69 and 70 are withdrawn from consideration in view of an earlier election of species requirement, although the withdrawal of claims 69 and 70 is traversed as discussed below.

Claims 1, 6, 8-18, 26, 51, 54-64 and 66 are amended herein. Unless an argument is made below in support of the patentability of each of these claims over a cited prior art reference in view of an amendment to the claim, the changes to the claims do not relate to patentability.

Information Disclosure Statement

As requested by the Examiner, submitted herewith are copies of the Information Disclosure Statements filed on October 30, 2000, November 22, 2000 and December 7, 2000. If copies of the references listed in the Information Disclosure Statements are also required, the Examiner is requested to notify the undersigned and copies will be provided.

Election/Restriction

The Examiner's withdrawal of claims 69 and 70 from consideration is respectfully traversed on the grounds that these claims are not directed to a system for adjusting the sensitive direction of a microphone (a non-elected species) but rather are directed to a system for adjusting a seat on which the occupant is situated to decrease the difference between the sensitive direction of a microphone and the probable location of the mouth of the occupant. Thus, these claims are directed to the elected species, a system for adjusting a seat, and should be considered in this application.

Claim Objections

Claim 31 is cancelled to overcome the objection thereto.

Claim Rejections-35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-4, 7, 8, 11, 12, 17, 18, 21 and 71 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Palalau et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,373,472). Claims 7 and 71 are cancelled.

The Examiner's rejection of the remaining claims is respectfully traversed in view of amendments to claim 1.

Claim 1 is directed to a vehicle including an interactive display system for a vehicle having forming means for forming an image of text and/or graphics in a field of view of a forward-facing occupant of the vehicle and interacting means coupled to the forming means for enabling the occupant to interact with the forming means to change the image formed by the forming means and/or direct another vehicular system to perform an operation. The interacting means comprise a touch pad. The forming means form the image apart from the touch pad, e.g., the touch pad is arranged on the steering wheel and the image is projected onto the windshield by a heads-up display unit.

Claim 1 also now includes the feature of correlation means for correlating a location on the touch pad which has been touched by the occupant to the image to enable the occupant to change the image formed by the forming means or direct the another vehicular system to perform an operation by touching the touch pad. The correlation means are coupled to the forming means and arranged to cause the forming means to display an indicator in the image which correlates to the location on the touch pad touched by the occupant.

This feature is discussed in the specification, e.g., at page 16, line 28 to page 17, line 6, wherein mention is made of the display of a cursor in the image which correlates or corresponds to the location on the touch pad which is being touched by the occupant. An advantage of displaying an indicator of the touched location on the formed image is that the occupant can see what operation will occur when they subsequently press their finger against the touch pad. That is, the initial touch of the touch pad will show the occupant where the finger is located in the image, e.g., over a control to adjust the heating system, and the subsequent pressing against the touch pad will execute the function being displayed at the location in the image correlating to the touched location, e.g., adjustment of the heating system. In addition to a cursor, display of an indicator may also encompass a variation in the location in the image correlating to the touched location of the touch pad, e.g., an inversion of the text at that location.

With the display device in accordance with the invention, the driver of a vehicle does not have to look at the touch pad, which may not be in the field of view of the driver when driving the vehicle, and can view the image being formed by the forming means entirely in his or her field of view when driving the vehicle. The driver thus does not have to take his or her eyes off the road in order to perform vehicle control functions.

Palalau et al. does not disclose an interactive vehicle display system including all of the features of claim 1 and specifically correlation means which cause display of an indicator in the image which correlates to the location on a touch pad touched by the occupant.

Palalau et al. shows a driver control interface system including feature group switches 28 or a feature group touch screen 36 and select switches 30 arranged on a steering wheel 26 of the vehicle and which when depressed, show various images which may be projected in a heads-up display (see col. 3, lines 22-25). The touch screen 36 graphically indicates areas of the screen 36 which correspond to the feature group switches 28.

In contrast to the embodiment of the invention set forth in claim 1, there is no correlation between the location touched on the touch screen 36 and the display of an indicator in the image in the display 22 when apart from the touch screen 36. Rather, the driver must look at the screen 36 to see where his or her finger is located and over what function the finger is located. This is dangerous since the driver must avert his gaze from the road in order to use the system.

Since Palalau et al. does not disclose, teach or suggest correlation means as set forth in claim 1, it cannot anticipate the embodiments of the invention set forth in claim 1 or in claims 2-4, 8, 11, 12, 17 and 18 which depend therefrom. In view of the changes to claim 1 and the arguments presented above, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's rejection of claims 1-4, 8, 11, 12, 17, 18 and 21 has been overcome and should be removed.

Claim Rejections-35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 9, 10 and 13-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Palalau et al.

Claims 9, 10 and 13-16 depend from claim 1 and as discussed above, claim 1 includes features not disclosed in Palalau et al. As such, one could not modify the Palalau et al. system to arrive at the embodiments of the invention set forth in claims 9, 10 and 13-16 and the Examiner's rejection of these claims has therefore been overcome and should be removed.

Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Palalau et al. in view of Schiffman (U.S. Pat. No. 5,061,996).

Schiffman et al. does not disclose correlation means as now set forth in claim 1 and since this feature is not disclosed in either Palalau et al. or Schiffman, one skilled in the art could not modify the Palalau et al. system in view of Schiffman to arrive at the embodiment of the invention set forth in claim 5. The Examiner's rejection of claim 5 has therefore been overcome and should be removed.

Claims 6 and 31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Palalau et al. in view of Bertsie et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,505,165). Claim 31 has been cancelled so this rejection is applicable now only to claim 6.

Bertsie et al. does not disclose correlation means as now set forth in claim 1 and since this feature is not disclosed in either Palalau et al. or Bertsie et al., one skilled in the art could not modify the Palalau et al. system in view of Bertsie et al. to arrive at the embodiment of the invention set forth in claim 6. The Examiner's rejection of claim 6 has therefore been overcome and should be removed.

Claims 22, 27-30 and 51-66 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Palalau et al. in view of Matsumoto (U.S. Pat. No. 5,734,357).

Claims 22 and 27-30 depend directly or indirectly from claim 1 which has been amended as discussed above.

Independent claim 51 has been amended to include the features of a touch pad and correlation means substantially as set forth in claim 1. Claims 52-66 depend directly or indirectly from claim 51.

Matsumoto does not disclose correlation means as now set forth in independent claims 1 and 51 and since this feature is not disclosed in either Palalau et al. (as discussed above) or Matsumoto, one skilled in the art could not modify the Palalau et al. system in view of Matsumoto to arrive at the embodiments of the invention set forth in claims 22, 27-30 and 51-66. The Examiner's rejection of these claims has therefore been overcome and should be removed.

In view of the changes to independent claims 1 and 51 and the arguments presented above, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's rejections of the claims have been overcome and should be removed and that the present application is now in condition for allowance.

New Claims

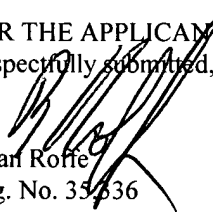
Claims 89-113 are added of which claim 89 is a new independent claim upon which claims 90-113 depend either directly or indirectly. Claim 89 includes the feature of a location on the touch pad which has been touched by the occupant being correlated to the image to enable the occupant to change the image formed by the forming means or direct the another vehicular system to perform an operation by touching the touch pad. This feature is not disclosed, taught or suggested by the cited prior art.

If the Examiner should determine that minor changes to the claims to obviate informalities are necessary to place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned to discuss the same.

A petition for a two-month extension to extend the time for response to the Office Action for two months from January 29, 2004 to March 29, 2004 is submitted herewith.

An early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

FOR THE APPLICANT
Respectfully submitted,


Brian Roffe
Reg. No. 35636

Brian Roffe, Esq.
11 Sunrise Plaza, Suite 303
Valley Stream, New York 11580-6170
Tel.: (516) 256-5636
Fax: (516) 256-5638

Encl.
Petition for Two-month extension
Copies of IDS's